

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of  
YAMAMOTO et al.

Serial No. 10/041,681

Filed: January 10, 2002

For: THIN-FILM SOLAR CELL AND ITS  
MANUFACTURING METHOD



Atty. Ref.: 900-411

Group: 1753

Examiner: Unassigned

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

1. **PTO-1449 Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b)**  
[within 3 months of filing or prior to 1st Office Action] *N/C*
2. **Statement Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c)**  
[before Final Office Action or Allowance] *N/C*
3. **Fee Payment Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c)**  
[before Final Office Action or Allowance] *\$180.00*
4. **Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(d)**  
[before Issue Fee payment] *\$180.00*

The following are submitted in the above-identified application in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

5. A list of documents on Form PTO-1449 together with copies of each identified document and a translation or a concise explanation of each non-English language document is enclosed herewith.

This paper is submitted in accordance with:

6. 37 CFR 1.97(b): [within 3 months of filing or prior to 1st Office Action]
7. 37 CFR 1.97(c): [before Final Office Action or Allowance, whichever is earlier]; and

- a) The required Statement made in item 9 below; or
  - b) The \$180.00 fee specified in 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is authorized in item 10 below.
  - 8. 37 CFR §1.97(d): [before issue fee payment]; and
    - a) The fee (\$180.00) required by 37 CFR §1.17(p) is submitted herewith; and
    - b) The required Statement is stated in item 9 below.
  - 9. Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)
  - a) The undersigned attorney of record hereby certifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (each item contained in this IDS was the first citation of that item by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application which occurred no more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS); or
  - b) No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this Statement, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
10. Please charge all deficiency fees associated with the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement and any other fees applicable to this application to Deposit Account No. 14-1140. An original and one (1) copy of this document are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,  
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

March 12, 2002

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